Ecosystem Management Partnerships Involving Department of Defense:

The Nature Conservancy and DoD

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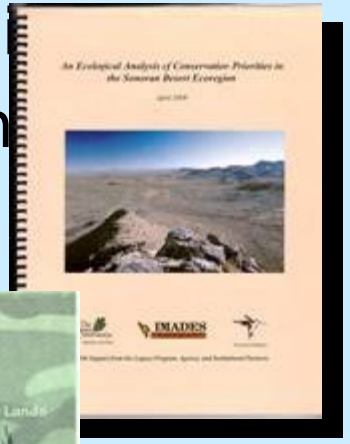
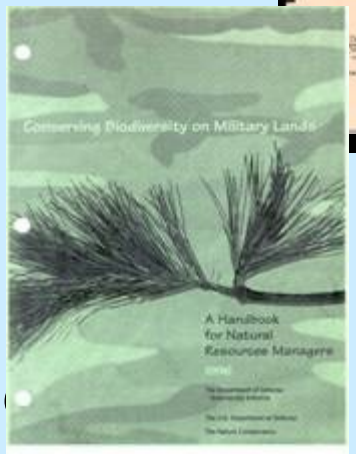
Partnership Roots and Degree of Co

- Mid 80s: First agreement to cooperate occurs at Vandenberg AFB, CA
- 1988: Initial Master Cooperative Agreement—first agreement between DoD and an “environmental” organization (renewed in 1993 and again in 2000)
- Above agreement the basis for 100s of cooperative projects over the last 15 years
- Projects have occurred all across the US and have included numerous installations and all Service Branches
- Many projects involve on-site staff

General Categories of Technical Support Provided DoD by the Conservancy

- Biological resource inventory and monitoring
- Ecosystem management planning and implementat
- Threat abatement science and strategi
- Ecological indicator/threshold research
- Access to biological information
- ESA listed species research
- Land protection
- Partnership facilitation
- Regional assessments
- General conservation guidanc
- Advisory bodies





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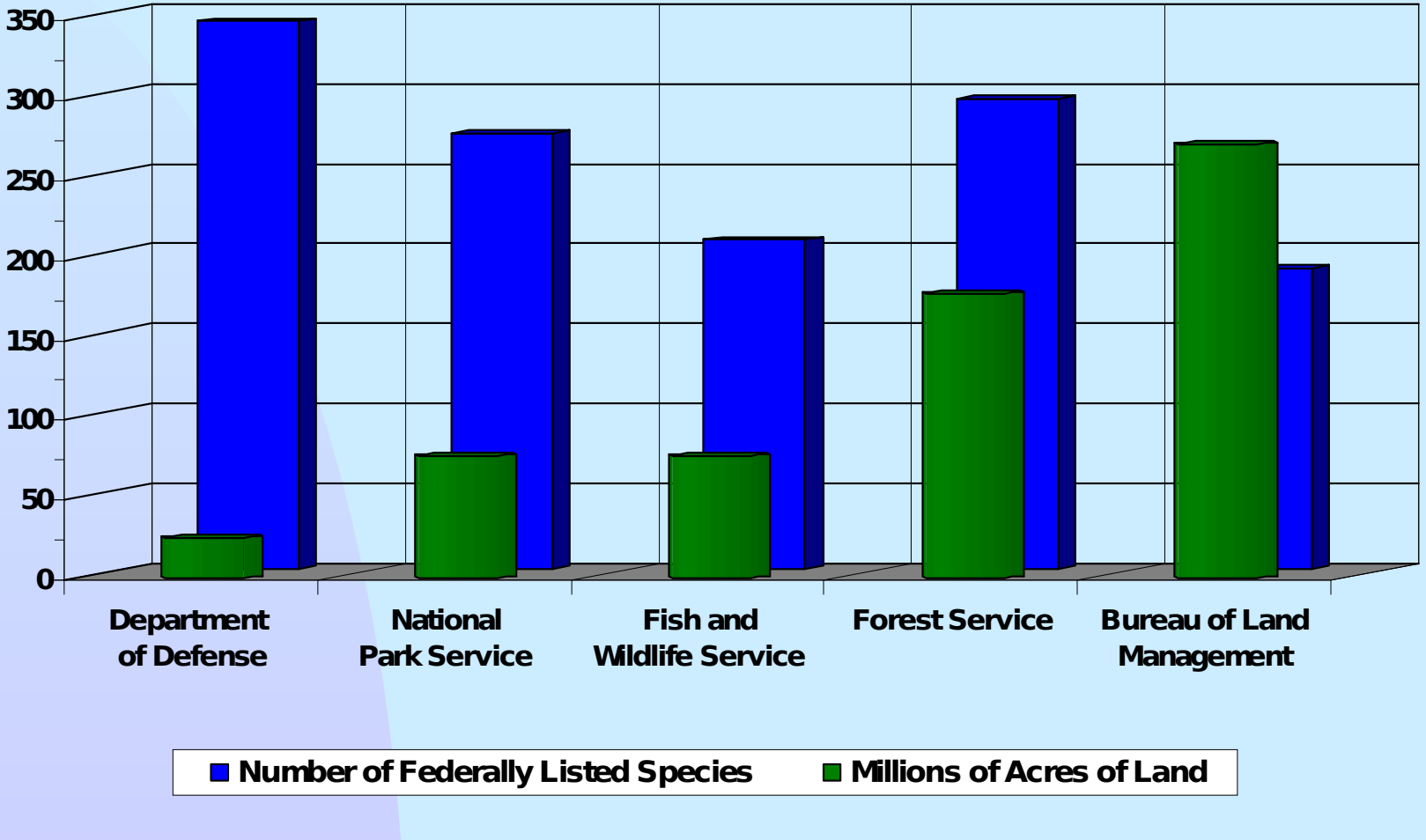
Conservation Science/Issues of Mutual Interest to the Conservancy and DoD

- Relative Ecological Significance
- Sustainability: Ecological and Otherwise
- Military Readiness and Stewardship: Are They Competing Goals?
- Creating “Functional” Landscapes

Relative Ecological Significance

- Broad geographic distribution of installations—cover many different ecosystems
- Surrounding land uses often incompatible with stewardship—DoD lands often are “islands”
- Many installations cover a large acreage
- Conservancy role: provide information and tools to quantify relative regional and local

NatureServe



Source: T&E Species on DOD Lands, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations & Environment)
Conservation Data Source: NatureServe and its Natural Heritage member programs. Copyright: 2003 NatureServe

Sustainability: Ecological and Otherwise

- Multiple perspectives of what is sustainability: are they mutually exclusive?
- DoD mission and ecological sustainability as an example: different or the same thing?
- Conservancy role:
  - Sustainable forestry research and implementation
  - Indicator/threshold research
  - Threat abatement research and management strategies

Military Readiness and Stewardship: Are They Competing Goals?

- Trade-off (balance) versus reliance on healthy ecosystems: are we framing the question wrong?
- Does maintaining the ecological sustainability of DoD lands make them available for military use, now and into the future?
- Is good stewardship necessary to engender public support for maintaining a military presence on current (and future) DoD lands?
- Conservancy role: provide strategies for ecosystem-based approaches (get ahead of

Creating “Functional” Landscapes

- Encroachment from the DoD perspective
- Encroachment from the ecological perspective
- Can solutions lead to mutual benefit?
- Conservancy role:
  - Land and water protection (through acquisition or easement)
  - Create encroachment buffers (and in some cases provide additional training lands)
  - Improve ecological (functionality) of affected ecosystems and species populations

What Does the Future Hold?

- Place importance on “integrated” land-use planning and land-use allocations for meeting ecosystem management goals
- Develop and apply standards for ecosystem stewardship—get ahead of the curve
- Pursue simultaneously the military mission and stewardship—these are the priorities
- Invest in cooperative management partnerships across jurisdictional boundaries—you really can’t go it alone